

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EPA-04 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 EA-09 FRB-01 INR-07 IO-13 NEA-10

NSAE-00 USIA-15 OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-04

SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 H-02 CEQ-01 DOTE-00

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TO USMISSION OECD PARIS

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TAGS: SENV, OECD

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE--IMPLEMENTATION OF COUNCIL
RECOMMENDATIONS C(74)16 AND C(74)219

REF: OECD PARIS 22173

1. MISSION IS REQUESTED TO PASS THE FOLLOWING TO THE
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE.

2. CONCERNING THE SUBMISSION OF UPDATED OR ADDITIONAL
INFO IN RELATION TO COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS C(74)16 AND
C(74)219, THE U.S. HAS NOTHING TO ADD OTHER THAN THE
INFORMATION INCLUDED IN COMMITTEE ROOM DOCUMENT NO. 8,
DATED JULY 7.

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3. ON THE MORE GENERAL SUBJECT OF THE VALUE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS, WE HAVE GIVEN THEM STRONG SUPPORT BOTH IN THE AIR MANAGEMENT GROUP (AMG) AND IN THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE. FOLLOWING ADOPTION BY COUNCIL WE, ALONG WITH OTHERS, EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF COMPLYING WITH THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS, WHICH WERE INSERTED IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A MEASURE OF PROGRESS WITH RESPECT TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS. SEVERAL DISCUSSIONS OCCURRED BETWEEN THE AMG AND SECRETARIAT CONCERNING THE MOST EFFECTIVE REPORTING FORMAT AND WHO REPORTS TO WHOM. DURING THESE DISCUSSIONS IT BECAME APPARENT THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO FURNISH INFORMATION WHICH COULD BE USED EFFECTIVELY AS A MEASURE OF PROGRESS. IT ALSO BECAME CLEAR THAT NO ONE KNEW WHAT THE COUNCIL WOULD DO WITH SUCH REPORTS ONCE THEY WERE RECEIVED. THE AMG WAS FINALLY ABLE TO AGREE ON A FORMAT WHICH WOULD COMBINE THE REPORTING FROM BOTH C(74)16 AND C(74)219, AND WHICH DID NOT SEEM OVERWHELMING IN DETAIL. AS IT TURNED OUT, COUNTRIES HAD TROUBLE RESPONDING EVEN ACCORDING TO THE AGREED FORMAT. CONSEQUENTLY, THE INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARIAT WAS MUCH MORE HETEROGENEOUS THAN EXPECTED.

4. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AS STATED IN THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE OBVIOUSLY UNSATISFACTORY CONCERNING FREQUENCY AND DEADLINES. (ALSO, THEY ARE NOT EVEN CONSISTENT WITH ONE ANOTHER.) FOR EXAMPLE, ENV(74)16 INCORPORATED A REPORTING DEADLINE OF MARCH 1975, WHICH WAS UNREALISTIC AND WAS NOT MET. IN ENV(74)219, ON THE OTHER HAND, WE FIND VERY VAGUE LANGUAGE ON REPORTING. AS WE HAVE NOTED BEFORE, WE QUESTION THE RATIONALE FOR "REPORTING ACTIONS TO THE COUNCIL" IF, IN FACT, THE COUNCIL CAN DO NOTHING WITH THE INFORMATION IT RECEIVES AND/OR IF THE ITEMS ON WHICH A REPORT IS TO BE MADE ARE TOO VAGUE TO PERMIT MONITORING.

5. DESPITE THE PROBLEM DESCRIBED ABOVE, WE DO NOT WANT TO DO AWAY WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OR MAKE THEM ANY MORE GENERAL THAN THEY ARE. WE BELIEVE THAT THE AIR GROUP SHOULD ADDRESS THE MATTER AT ITS NEXT MEETING, AND SUGGEST THAT THE "SOLUTION" MAY BE TO AGREE TO AN UNCLASSIFIED

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INFORMAL, PRAGMATIC AMENDMENT TO THE REPORTING PROCEDURES ONCE THE INITIAL, REQUIRED REPORT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL. WE BELIEVE THIS REPORT ITSELF SHOULD DESCRIBE THE PROBLEMS IN FOLLOWING-UP ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS (AS ENV(76)35 MADE A GENERAL ATTEMPT TO DO), AND EXPLAIN HOW THE AIR GROUP AND THE COMMITTEE PLAN TO PROCEED IN THE FUTURE. WE SUGGEST THAT THIS BE THROUGH CONTINUING (AD HOC?) INFORMATION EXCHANGES AS AND IF

IMPORTANT NEW INFORMATION EVOLVES, BUT NO FURTHER REPORTS
TO THE COUNCIL UNLESS EVENTS WARRANT OR THE COUNCIL
INSISTS. THE COUNCIL SHOULD, AT THE SAME TIME, BE
REASSURED THAT THE AIR GROUP AND COMMITTEE TAKE THE ISSUES
RAISED IN THE RECOMMENDATIONS VERY SERIOUSLY, AND CONTINUE
TO FOCUS ON THEM AND EVOLVE NEW COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES
AS APPROPRIATE (E.G., THE NOX/PHOTOCHEMICAL OXIDANT
PROJECT, THE "CLEAN FUELS" PROJECT). KISSINGER

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